

# Climate Seminar Series 2010-2011

## **“WORLD WATER POLICIES: LOOKING BACK AND THINKING AHEAD”**

**MUHAMMAD MIZANUR RAHAMAN**  
**Adaptation and Impacts Research, Environment Canada**

**WEDNESDAY 2 March 2011**  
**2:00 to 4:00 pm**

**University of Toronto at Scarborough**  
**SW403, Former Council Chambers**  
**1265 Military Trail, Toronto, ON, Canada, M1C 1A4**

**ABSTRACT:** Contemporary world water policies and associated water management principles have been developed and evolved over the past few decades during different international water events including the UN Conference on Water (1977), UNCED (1992) (Chapter 18 of Agenda 21), WSSSD (2002), World Water Forums (2000, 2003, 2006, 2009). In recent years, the significance of these events and related world water policies has been criticized due to their weak outcomes and lack of implementation. However, almost every year, new water related world events are being organized that offer new policies and principles for sustainable water management. The key question is: whether we learned from those previous developments or are we jumpstarting offering new world water policies and principles just for the sake of producing something new? The study reveals that the apparent significance of global world water events has been reduced not because of the weak outcomes, but mainly due to the weak follow-up in implementing the relevant policy guidelines and management principles already offered in previous water events, notably, Chapter 18 of the Agenda 21. By far, Chapter 18 of the Agenda 21 provides the most comprehensive policy guidelines for sustainable water resources management. Regrettably, with time, the international water community as well as relevant academic studies and literatures are overlooking these valuable guidelines and more regrettably, new water policies and principles are propagated which were, in fact, already incorporated in earlier world water events. In the current competitive knowledge economy, it is extremely important that world water and environmental professionals choose a path of water policies development which includes both the past knowledge relevant to solve present problems as well as the present knowledge that aims to meet future needs and challenges.

**BRIEF BIO:** Muhammad Mizanur Rahaman is currently a visiting scholar at the Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, England. He holds a researcher position at School of Engineering, Aalto University, Finland. His research interests are global water policies, integrated water resources management, transboundary river basin institutions and conflicts. Rahaman is a member of International Water Resources Association, Finnish Association of Civil Engineers, International Water History Association and International Law Association. He is serving as an editorial board member of the Journal Sustainable Society.

REMAINING SEMINARS IN THIS SERIES:

WED MARCH 9, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m.

GITA LAIDLER, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University

"Inuit knowledge and uses of sea ice"

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